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P 032030Z OCT 80
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7000
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 4054
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release (☐) Excise (☐) Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: (☐) In Part (☒) In Full
(☐) Classify as _____ (☐) Extend as _____ (☐) Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

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USEEC

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

EO 12065: GDS 10/3/86 (RUSER, CLAUS W.) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 3, 1980
REF: BUENOS AIRES 7831

1. [REDACTED] MORE ON DETENTIONS: THE FRG EMBASSY HAS TOLD US THAT DANIEL CABEZAS MAY INDEED BE ALIVE AND IN LEGAL CUSTODY RATHER THAN DETAINED. NORA INEZ HILB, CABEZAS' GERMAN-ARGENTINE COMMON-LAW WIFE HAS TOLD RELATIVES THAT SHE HAS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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SEEN HER HUSBAND IN CUSTODY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS. ALSO CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN THE GERMAN EMBASSY AND JUDICIAL

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OFFICIALS HAVE INCLUDED THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY THE LATTER THAT CABEZAS IS UNDER DETAINMENT. HOWEVER, TO DATE, OTHER THAN HILB, NOBODY OTHER THAN HIS CAPTORS HAS ACTUALLY SEEN CABEZAS.

2. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE FRG OFFICIALS HERE BELIEVE THAT THEIR RAPID INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF HILB AND CABEZAS RESULTED IN THE TWO SURFACING IN CUSTODY. THEY THINK, TOO, ON BASIS OF REMARKS TO THEM BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES, THAT THE GOA INITIALLY THOUGHT THAT CABEZAS, LIKE HIS WIFE, WAS A GERMAN-ARGENTINE DUAL NATIONAL AND THIS CONFUSION PLAYED A DECISIVE ROLE IN HIS BY NOW QUASI-ACKNOWLEDGED DETENTION.

3. [REDACTED] BAD RAP FROM PEN: THE INTERNATIONAL PEN CLUB IN ITS 1980 REPORT REPORTEDLY CLASSIFIED ARGENTINA WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND VIETNAM AS THE THREE WORST COUNTRIES FOR WRITERS AND NEWSMEN. THE REPORTS OF THE PEN MOVE STATED THAT 70 JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS HAVE DISAPPEARED SINCE 1970 AND 30 MORE ARE IN JAIL.

4. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THE PEN CLUB'S CLASSIFICATION OF ARGENTINA IN 1980 WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND VIETNAM IS A GROSS DISTORTION OF PRESENT REALITY. WHATEVER THE SITUATION IN THE PAST, WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS ENJOY FAR MORE FREEDOM AND SECURITY THAN THEY DID SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND CERTAINLY MORE THAN THEIR FELLOWS IN INNUMERABLE OTHER LANDS, NOT TO MENTION THE SOVIET UNION AND VIETNAM. HOWEVER WELL INTENTIONED, IF MISINFORMED, PEN MAY BE, THIS KIND OF WILD HAYMAKER DOES NO GOOD HERE. RATHER IT PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF ELEMENTS IN THE GOVERNMENT THAT PRETEND THAT ALL CRITICISM FROM ABROAD IS IRRESPONSIBLE,
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ILL-INTENTIONED AND SHOULD BE IGNORED.

5. (U) PRESS FREEDOM: THE ARGENTINE PUBLISHER'S ASSOCIATION REVIEWED PRESS FREEDOM IN THE COUNTRY AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING. AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING THE PUBLISHERS ISSUED A LONG STATEMENT WHICH INCLUDED THE RATHER CONFORTED STATEMENT THAT "IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO STATE THAT PRESS FREEDOM EXISTS IN ARGENTINA." REPORTEDLY, MANY OF THE PUBLISHERS WANTED TO GO FURTHER AND STATE THAT PRESS FREEDOM HAD BEEN REESTABLISHED. IN THE END, THE BACK-ENDED ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FAVORABLE EVOLUTION REPORTEDLY EMERGED BECAUSE IT MORE CLOSELY REFLECTED THE SITUATION

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IN THE COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO THE PUBLISHERS' ASSESSMENT, OCCASIONAL HARASSMENT OF NEWSPAPERS AND THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF EXCEPTIONAL LEGISLATION THAT CAN BE USED TO PROSECUTE PAPERS STILL CRIMP PRESS FREEDOM. MANY PUBLISHERS ALSO MAKE THE VIRTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEWSPRINT MONOPOLY EARLIER THIS YEAR AN ISSUE OF PRESS FREEDOM.

6. [REDACTED] COMMENT: AS WE HAVE REPORTED IN THE PAST THE PRESS IS FAR LESS INHIBITED THAN IN THE PAST. THE PRESS, IN AN EXERCISE OF SELF-CENSORSHIP, INITIALLY HANDLED THE DELAY IN THE NAMING OF THE PRESIDENT VERY GINGERLY, BUT AFTER 24 HOURS BEGAN REPORTING THE MANY RUMORS THAT WERE

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LOADING AROUND TOWN ABOUT THIS ISSUE. IN OTHER AREAS, INCLUDING THE CRITICAL REMARKS OF POLITICIANS AND ECONOMISTS

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REGARDING THE GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMANCE AND PLANS AS WELL AS HUMAN RIGHTS (FOR EXAMPLE THE PEN REPORT CONCLUSIONS REPORTED PARA 3), THE GLOVES SEEM TO BE FAIRLY WELL OFF. THE NEWSPRINT MONOPOLY HERE IS OF COURSE A POTENTIAL WEAPON AGAINST PRESS FREEDOM. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT SO USED IT, HOWEVER, AND THE CONTINUING CONTROVERSY REFLECTS, IN A GOOD MEASURE, THE UNHAPPINESS OF PUBLISHERS FORCED TO USE HIGHER COST NEWSPRINT. IT MAY BE A MEASURE OF HOW FAR

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THINGS HAVE COME THAT INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY, ECHOING HIS PEERS IN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS, PUBLICLY LAMENTED THIS WEEK THAT THE ARGENTINE PRESS DOES NOT PRINT MORE NEWS ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S ACHIEVEMENTS.

7. [REDACTED] CHILEAN SPIES: TWO ACCUSED CHILEAN SPIES ARE BEING HANDLED IN CIVILIAN COURTS. REPORTEDLY, SOME OF THE MILITARY WANTED THE MEN HANDED OVER TO THE MILITARY JUSTICE SYSTEM, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THREE ARGENTINES APPREHENDED LAST YEAR IN CHILE ON THE CHARGE OF SPYING WERE TRIED AND SENTENCED BY A MILITARY COURT. HOWEVER, DESPITE REPORTED MILITARY CLAIMS, THE DECISION WAS TAKEN TO KEEP THE MEN IN CIVILIAN COURTS.

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